

中学英语 阅读教程

(适于高中二年级程度使用)

北京师范学院出版社

中学英语阅读教程 E

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内 容 提 要

《中学英语阅读教程》原文选自美国《Reading for Concepts》丛书，共分8册(A~H)。它配合新颁中学英语教学大纲使用，供学生进行阅读能力的训练，是一套理想的阅读教材。每册约75篇短文，语言地道，内容丰富，涉及人类学、生物、地理、历史、经济、艺术、数学、宇宙空间等十几个领域。文章的深浅程度与现行中学教材平行发展，相应的生词量一般不超过4%，编者专门作了注释。每课都配有练习题（书末附有答案），从不同方面科学地引导和考查学生阅读能力的发展。《教程》具有广泛的使用性和较高的保留价值，除供中学师生参考使用外，还可供广大英语爱好者阅读。

本书是《教程》的E册，适合于高中二年级程度使用。

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沈小梅 选注

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序 言

一、新颁中学英语教学大纲指出：中学英语教学的目的是，对学生进行听、说、读、写的基本训练，培养学生在口头上和书面上初步运用英语的能力，侧重培养阅读能力，为进一步学习和运用英语切实打好基础。大纲同时还指出：阅读是理解和吸收书面信息的能力。阅读有助于扩大词汇，丰富语言知识，提高运用语言的能力。阅读材料宜选用原著或经过改写的原著。这类读物的难点往往不只是词汇和语法，还有英语特有的表达法、习惯用语、思维习惯和社会文化背景知识。

为适应新颁中学英语教学大纲提出的这些要求，帮助中学生和英语自学者提高英语素质以及阅读能力，满足对阅读教材的急切需求，我们选注了这套阅读教程。

二、《中学英语阅读教程》选自美国《Reading for Concepts》丛书，全套共8册（A~H），每册约75篇短文。从初三起始至高三结束，每一年级配备两册，供上、下学期开设阅读课使用。普通中学可要求学生从高一开始，读完A~F册，重点中学可要求学生从初三开始，读完A~H册。当然，对于英语基础较好的读者，它也不失是一套很好的阅读教材。

三、全套教材采用符合初三及高中各年级学生心理特点和逻辑思维的知识性材料，题材广泛，篇幅适中，极富启发

性。语言深度与现行教科书平行发展，由浅入深，对生词量有严格控制，一般不超过4%。

每篇课文包括三项内容：1. 课文；2. 课文注释；3. 练习题（书末附有答案）。练习题的设置遵循着一定的理论依据，指导学生从不同的方面去提高他们的阅读能力和水平。如A册的7个方面是：

1. 获知能力，要求回忆起一个具体事实。
2. 理解单词在上、下文中的含义。
3. 掌握语言结构——找到代词的先行词。
4. 理解文章暗含意思与推理能力。
5. 证实课文中一个具体的句子。
6. 理解文章中心意思。
7. 在上、下文中理解词义——找出反义词。

随着学习的深入，阅读能力测验的范围也逐渐扩大。读者可以根据练习情况，对照书末的答案检查自己阅读能力的发展。

四、全套教程具有百科知识性质，涉及人类学、生物、地理、历史、经济、艺术、数学、宇宙空间等十几个领域。每册还穿插了三至四篇兴趣阅读材料（不附测试题），如：民间故事、科学幻想等。

五、全套教程的选注由王辰主持。

编者 1988年3月

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Nature Or Man Limits Things That Can Be Done

In this section you will read about how nature or man limits things that can be done. You will read about these things from the standpoint of space, history, biology, economics, anthropology, geography, earth science, political science, and art.

Keep these questions in mind when you are reading.

1. What are some things that seem impossible to do now?
2. Do you think any of these things will ever be done?
3. How might it affect you if these things were possible?
4. What is preventing these goals from being reached?
5. From your knowledge of the past, do you feel some of these things will happen soon?

1. *Nothing Can Move That Fast*

In many stories on TV and in science-fiction books, men travel to faraway stars. They have quick, easy journeys. But so far, men have been able to reach only the earth's own moon.

Suppose a man wanted to reach a distant star. Even if he traveled his whole life, he would have to move faster than the speed of light. Nothing can move that fast except light itself.

Strange things happen to an object when it moves rapidly. The object weighs more. An object moving at 86 percent of the speed of light is twice as heavy as it is at rest. A stick appears shorter. A clock runs more slowly. A man would not age so fast as he would on the earth.

Light travels more than 186,000 miles a second, or about 11 million miles a minute. In one year, light travels six trillion (6,000,000,000,000) miles. That great distance is called a light-year. It is used to measure distances in space.

The star closest to our sun is Alpha Centauri (al'fə sen tōr'ē). It is more than four light-years away. If one traveled at the speed of light, he could make a round trip to Alpha Centauri in nine years. But, even at that speed, he could not reach Alcaid (al kād') in the handle of the Big Dipper. A one-way journey to Alcaid would take almost 200

years!

years!

Notes

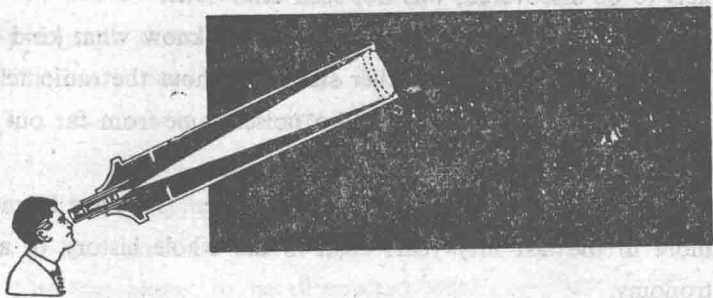
1. science-fiction 科学幻想
2. at rest 静止
3. trillion ['trɪljən] num. 兆, 万亿; n. 大量, 无数
4. light-year 光年
5. Alpha Centauri ['ælfə 'sentɔ:] n. 半人马座 a 星
6. Alcaid 北斗七 (摇光) η
7. handle ['hændl] n. 把柄
8. dipper ['dɪpə] n. 北斗七星
the Big Dipper 大熊星座

FIND THE ANSWERS

1. The star closest to our sun is
 - a. Alcaid.
 - b. the Big Dipper.
 - c. Alpha Centauri.
 - d. Rigel.
2. The word in paragraph 3 that means *a thing or something* is _____.
3. The words "closest to our sun" in the last paragraph describe the star _____.
4. The story does not say so, but it makes you think that
 - a. man will soon make a one-way trip to Alcaid.
 - b. it would take over four years to go to Alpha Centauri.
 - c. the handle of the Big Dipper is *not* many light-

years away.

5. A one-way journey to Alcaid would take
 - a. about nine years.
 - b. less than four years.
 - c. almost 200 years.
6. When things move rapidly, they stay the same as they are when motionless.
Yes No Does not say
7. On the whole, this story is about
 - a. the problems of traveling to faraway stars.
 - b. the distance between our sun and the other stars.
 - c. what happens when we travel faster than the speed of light.
8. Why do we measure great distances in light-years instead of miles?
 - a. Units of light-years sound better.
 - b. Using light-years reduces the number of figures used.
 - c. We used to measure distances in light-years long ago.
9. Which statement does the story lead you to believe?
 - a. Light travels several hundred miles in a year.
 - b. It is not possible for man to get to the nearest star.
 - c. Going to the moon is easier than reaching Alcaid.



2. *New Tools for an Old Science*

Astronomy is the oldest science known to man. Thousands of years ago man looked at the stars and wondered about the heavens. But man was limited by what he could see with his eyes alone.

The Greeks studied astronomy over 2,000 years ago. They could see the size, color, and brightness of a star. They could see its place in the sky. They watched the stars move as the seasons changed. But the Greeks had no tools to help them study the heavens.

Each new tool added to the field of astronomy helped man reach out into space. Until there were telescopes, man knew little about the moon. He did not know that the planet called Saturn had rings around it. His sight was so limited that he could not see all the planets. In the early 1700s, people thought there were only six planets. Pluto, the last of nine pla-

nets to be discovered, was not seen until 1930.

Before the spectroscope, man did not know what kind of gases were in the sun or other stars. Without the radio telescope we did not know that radio noises came from far out in space.

Today, astronomy is a growing science. We have learned more in the last fifty years than in the whole history of astronomy.

Notes

1. astronomy [əs'trɒnəmi] n. 天文学
2. Greek [gri:k] a. 希腊的, n. 希腊人
3. brightness ['braɪtli] n. 亮度, 光度
4. tool [tu:l] n. 工具, 器具
5. reach out 伸展
6. Saturn ['sætə:n] n. 土星
7. Pluto ['plu:təu] n. 冥王星
8. spectroscope ['spektrəskəup] n. 分光器
9. radio telescope 射电望远镜

FIND THE ANSWERS

1. In the early 1700s, people believed there were
a. noises in space. c. about fifty planets.
b. six planets. d. no planets.
2. The word in the first paragraph that means *not able to go beyond* is _____.

3. The words "the oldest science known to man" in the first paragraph describe _____.
4. The story does not say so, but it makes you think that
- man's eyes have grown weaker in the last fifty years.
 - the telescope was invented before the spectroscope.
 - stars far out in space do not have color.
5. The last planet to be discovered was
- Saturn.
 - Mars.
 - Pluto.
6. Saturn has rings around it.
- Yes No Does not say
7. On the whole, this story is about
- the uses of the radio telescope.
 - discoveries in astronomy.
 - the six planets as we now know them.
8. Why didn't people know about Pluto until 1930?
- Their telescopes weren't strong enough to see it.
 - Pluto didn't come into being until 1930.
 - Space was too dark to see any of the planets.
9. Which statement does the story lead you to believe?
- Telescopes were discovered by the Greeks 2,000 years ago.
 - More discoveries in astronomy may be made.

c. All the stars can be seen with the eyes alone.

3. *One-Eyed Men and Terrible Monsters*

In 1492, Columbus sailed the Atlantic Ocean. Up to that time, men from central Europe did not dare to sail west across the sea. Sailors were held back because they feared many dangers. Their maps showed the unexplored parts of the world as dangerous and frightening.

In those days, the men who made maps did not know what the world was really like. They used their imagination. They showed the earth as a large circle with Europe and Asia in the center. Around the edges of the circle, they showed swamps, deserts, and the ocean. One-eyed men and terrible monsters were supposed to live there.

The ocean itself was called the Sea of Darkness. Sailors believed that if they sailed far north they would reach mountains made of ice. They thought that far south the ocean turned into fire and boiling water. They were afraid to sail east or west. They thought they would fall off the earth.

A sailor had to face some dangers that were quite real. At that time, ships were not made with metal as they are today. Shipworms could attack a boat's wooden planking. A sailing vessel might look sound but be eaten through. It might go to pieces at sea and sink.